Please amend the claims as follows:

Please amend the claims as follows. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original)   A method for optimizing energy usage at an end user site comprising the steps of:

determining a cost for generating energy at the end user site;

determining the cost of purchasing energy from another energy supplier;

establishing a set of end-user energy policies for generating and using energy at the end-user facility; and

generating a set of energy supply alternatives based on the energy user requirements and the cost of the energy alternatives.

9. (Original)   The method as described in claim 8 further comprising after said generating step, the step of selecting an energy alternative that provides optimal energy usage, said selection being based on said established end-user energy policies.

10. (Original) The method as described in claim 9 wherein said end-user energy policy is based on the lowest energy cost and the closest available time to a preferred time of the user.

11. (Original) The method as described in claim 9 further comprising after said selection step, steps for implementing a pre-programmed operation of the particular appliance or application using energy from the selected energy option.

12. (Original) The method as described in claim 11 wherein said implementing steps are automatically performed.

13. (Original) The method as described in claim 9 further comprising when the selected alternative is the end-user the steps of:
      generating energy at the end-user facility;
      using said generated energy as desired by the end-user; and
      selling any excess generated energy to other end-users or to energy suppliers.

14. (Original) The method as described in claim 13 wherein said energy selling step comprises:
      placing information about available energy in a location accessible to potential energy purchasers;
      negotiating the price and quantity of the energy with a potential energy purchaser; and
      consummating the transaction with the potential energy purchaser.

15. (Original) The method as described in claim 14 wherein said negotiating step comprises:
      receiving an offer from a potential purchaser to buy energy, said offer containing a desired energy quantity and purchase price;
      determining whether to accept the offer, reject the offer or to submit a counter offer to the potential purchaser; and
      submitting a response to the potential energy purchaser.

16. (Original) The method as described in claim 9 further comprising when the selected alternative is the end-user the steps of:

submitting an offer to purchase energy to the selected energy supplier;

receiving a response to the energy purchase offer from the selected energy supplier; and

consummating the transaction with the energy purchaser.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for optimizing energy usage at an end user site comprising:

instructions for determining a cost for generating energy at the end user site;

instructions for determining the cost of purchasing energy from another energy supplier;

instructions for establishing a schedule for generating and using energy at the user end; and

instructions for generating a set of energy supply alternatives based on the energy user requirements and the cost of the energy alternatives.

25. (Original) The method as described in claim 24 further comprising after said generating instructions, instructions for selecting an energy alternative that provides optimal energy usage, said selection being based on said established end-user energy policies.

26. (Original) The method as described in claim 25 further comprising after said selecting instructions, instructions for implementing a pre-programmed operation of the particular appliance or application using energy from the selected energy option.

27. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 24 further comprising when the selected alternative is the end-user the instructions for:

generating energy at the end-user site;

using said generated energy as desired by the end-user; and

selling any excess generated energy to other end-users or to energy suppliers.

28. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 27 wherein said energy selling instructions comprise:

instructions for placing information about available energy in a location accessible to potential energy purchasers;

instructions for negotiating the price and quantity of the energy with a potential energy purchaser; and

instructions for consummating the transaction with the potential energy purchaser.

29. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 28 wherein said energy negotiating instructions comprise instructions for:

receiving an offer from a potential purchaser to buy energy, said offer containing a desired energy quantity and purchase price;

determining whether to accept the offer, reject the offer or to submit a counter offer to the potential purchaser; and

submitting a response to the potential energy purchaser.

30. (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 25 further comprising when the selected alternative is the end-user:

instructions for submitting an offer to purchase energy to the selected energy supplier;

instructions for receiving a response to the energy purchase offer from the selected energy

supplier; and

instructions for consummating the transaction with the energy purchaser.

31.   (Canceled)

32.   (Canceled)

33.   (Canceled)

34.   (Canceled)

35.   (Canceled)

36.   (Canceled)

37.   (Canceled)